



FROM THE PAGES OF **52** AND **COUNTDOWN** COMES...

BLACK ADAM

3

OF 6
DEC '07

TOMASI
MAHNKE
ALAMY
RAPMUND

FIGHT
OR
FLIGHT





BEYOND
MY WILDEST
DREAMS...



...I HAVE
BEEN WITH YOU.



BUT THE TIME
FOR DREAMING
HAS COME TO
AN END.



I WILL HOLD
YOUR WARM
BODY NEXT TO
MINE AGAIN...



...BY WHATEVER
MEANS NECESSARY!

BLACK ADAM

THE DARK AGE

PETER J. TOMASI: STORY AND WORDS
DOUG MAHNKE: PENCILLER

CHRISTIAN ALAMY AND RODNEY RAMOS: INKERS

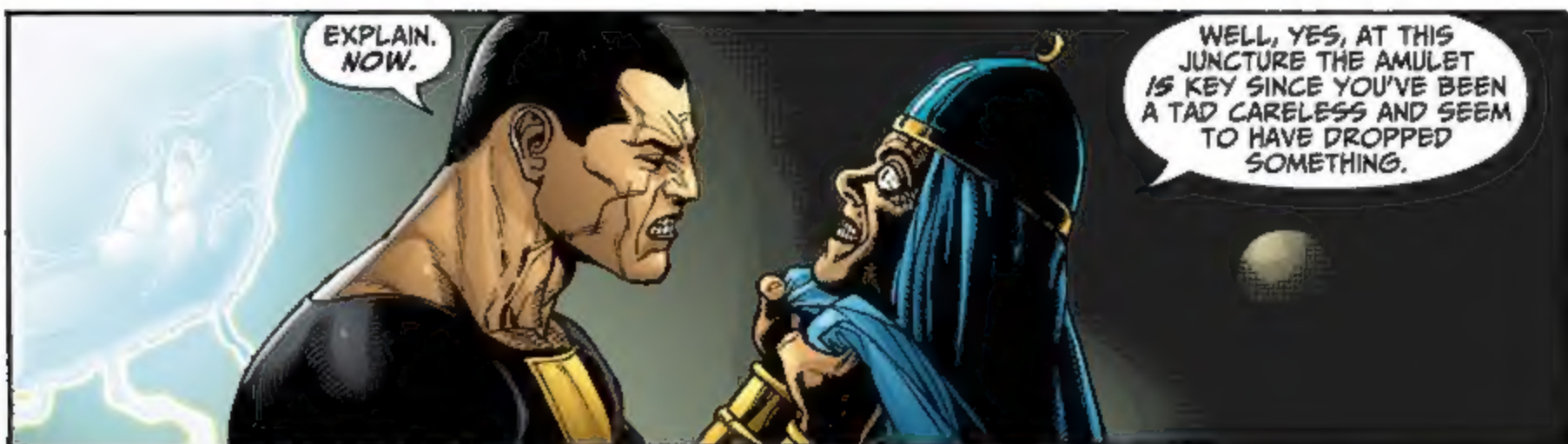
NATHAN EYRING: COLORIST - NICK J. NAPOLITANO: LETTERER
HARVEY RICHARDS: ASSISTANT EDITOR - MICHAEL SIGLAID: EDITOR
COVER BY DOUG MAHNKE

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ISIS' AMULET.

YOU SAID IT WAS THE KEY TO BRINGING HER BACK?



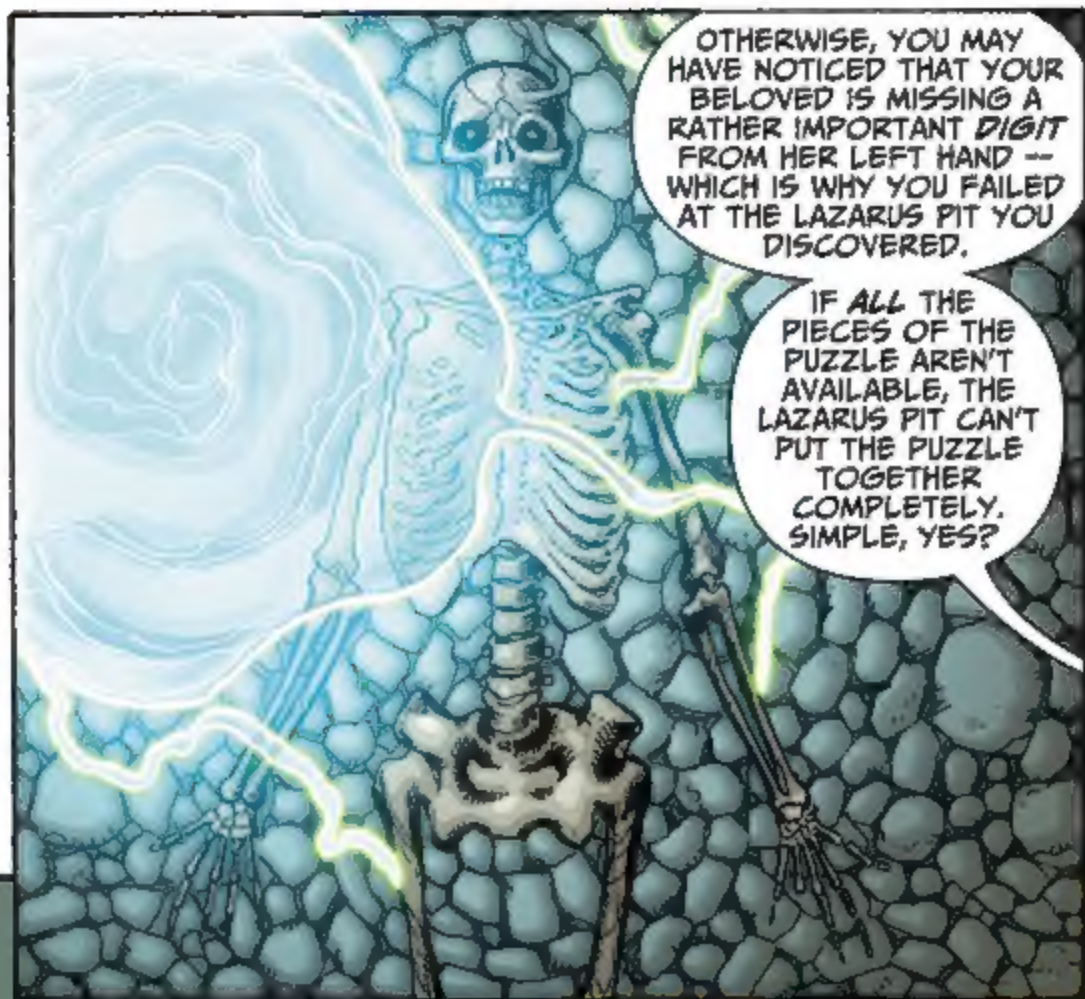
EXPLAIN. NOW.

WELL, YES, AT THIS JUNCTURE THE AMULET IS KEY SINCE YOU'VE BEEN A TAD CARELESS AND SEEM TO HAVE DROPPED SOMETHING.



WHAT ARE YOU BABBLING ABOUT, FAUST?

YOU'VE ALLOWED YOUR RESURRECTION MISSION TO BECOME A TAD MYOPIC, I'M AFRAID.



OTHERWISE, YOU MAY HAVE NOTICED THAT YOUR BELOVED IS MISSING A RATHER IMPORTANT *DIGIT* FROM HER LEFT HAND -- WHICH IS WHY YOU FAILED AT THE LAZARUS PIT YOU DISCOVERED.

IF ALL THE PIECES OF THE PUZZLE AREN'T AVAILABLE, THE LAZARUS PIT CAN'T PUT THE PUZZLE TOGETHER COMPLETELY. SIMPLE, YES?

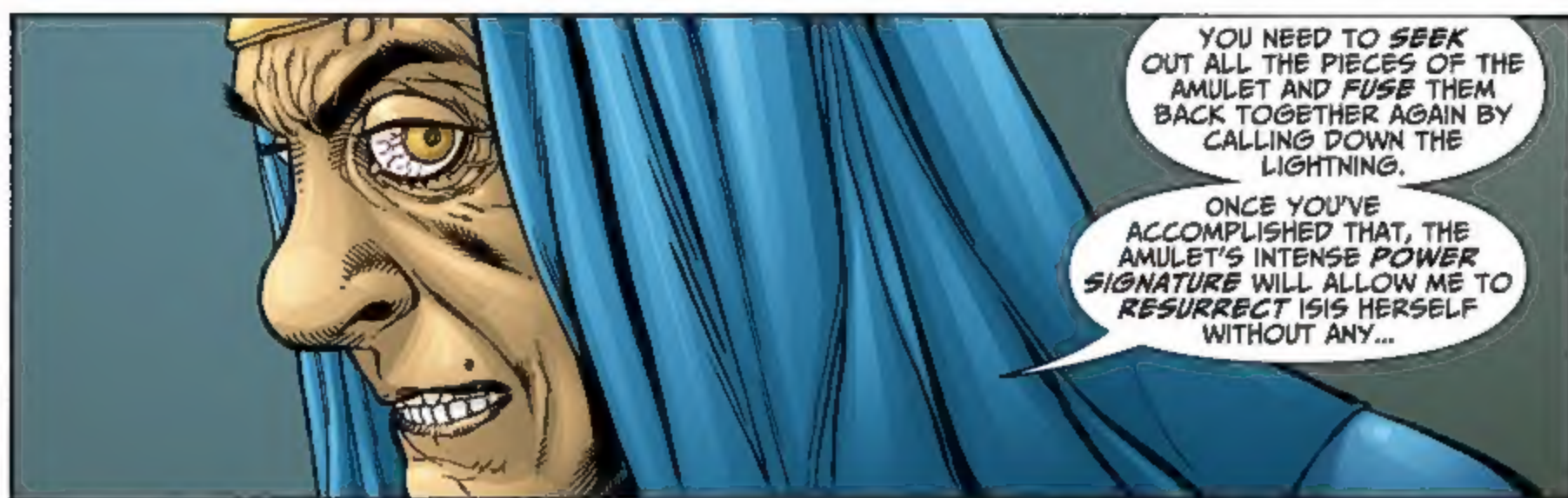


AS SIMPLE AS IT WOULD BE FOR ME TO REACH INTO YOUR CHEST AND PULL OUT ONE OF YOUR LUNGS.

DUE TO MY *UNIQUE* ABILITY TO SPEAK WITH THOSE SOULS THAT HAVE DEPARTED OUR DEAR WORLD, I HAVE MANAGED TO DISCOVER VITAL INFORMATION ABOUT THE AMULET SINCE ISIS' CONNECTION TO IT IS STILL SO STRONG.

I'M LISTENING. BUT NOT FOR LONG.





YOU NEED TO *SEEK* OUT ALL THE PIECES OF THE AMULET AND *FUSE* THEM BACK TOGETHER AGAIN BY CALLING DOWN THE LIGHTNING.

ONCE YOU'VE ACCOMPLISHED THAT, THE AMULET'S INTENSE *POWER SIGNATURE* WILL ALLOW ME TO *RESURRECT* ISIS HERSELF WITHOUT ANY...



...SHORT-COMINGS THIS TIME.

YOU SEEM TO FORGET THAT I AM SOMETHING OF A FUGITIVE, YOU FOOL.

THE *ENTIRE* WORLD IS OUT FOR MY HEAD AND YOU EXPECT ME TO GO GLOBETROTTING LIKE SOME IDIOTIC TREASURE HUNTER?

IF *THAT* IS THE EXTENT OF YOUR MASTER PLAN THEN I --



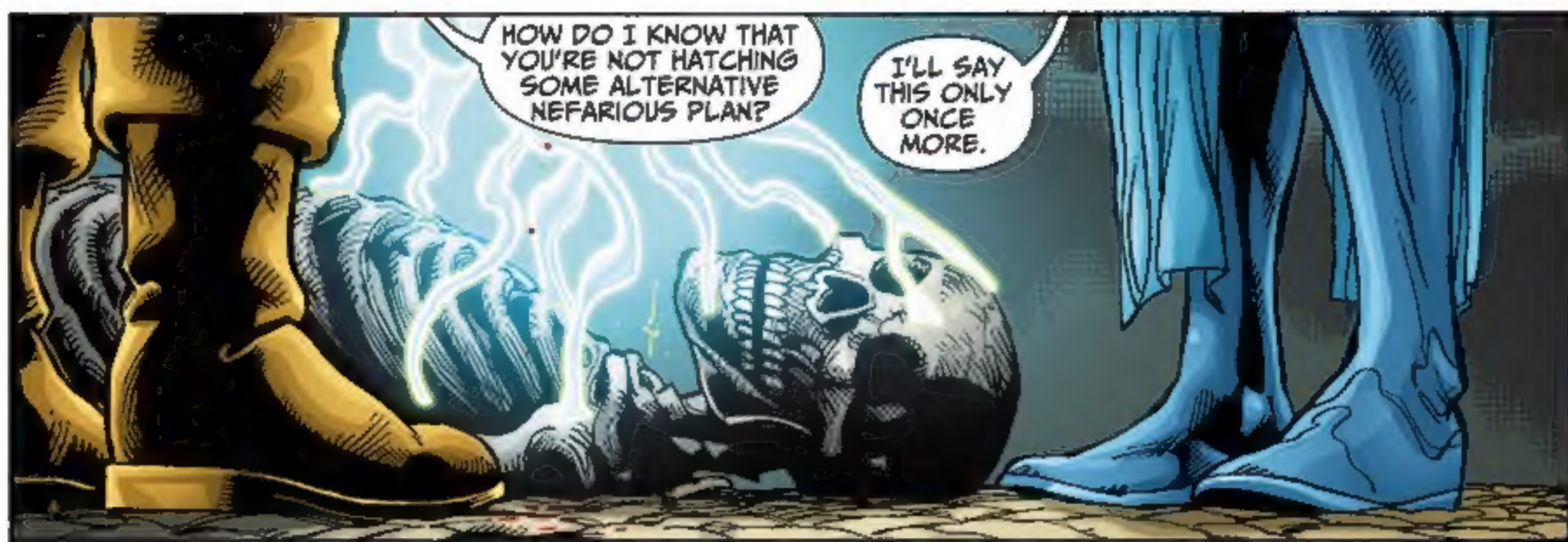
QUIET!

WHAT I DO NEXT WILL AID YOU IN YOUR QUEST FOR THE AMULET.

YOU *DARE* LAY YOUR HAND ON--



NOW IT'S *YOUR* TURN TO SHUT UP.





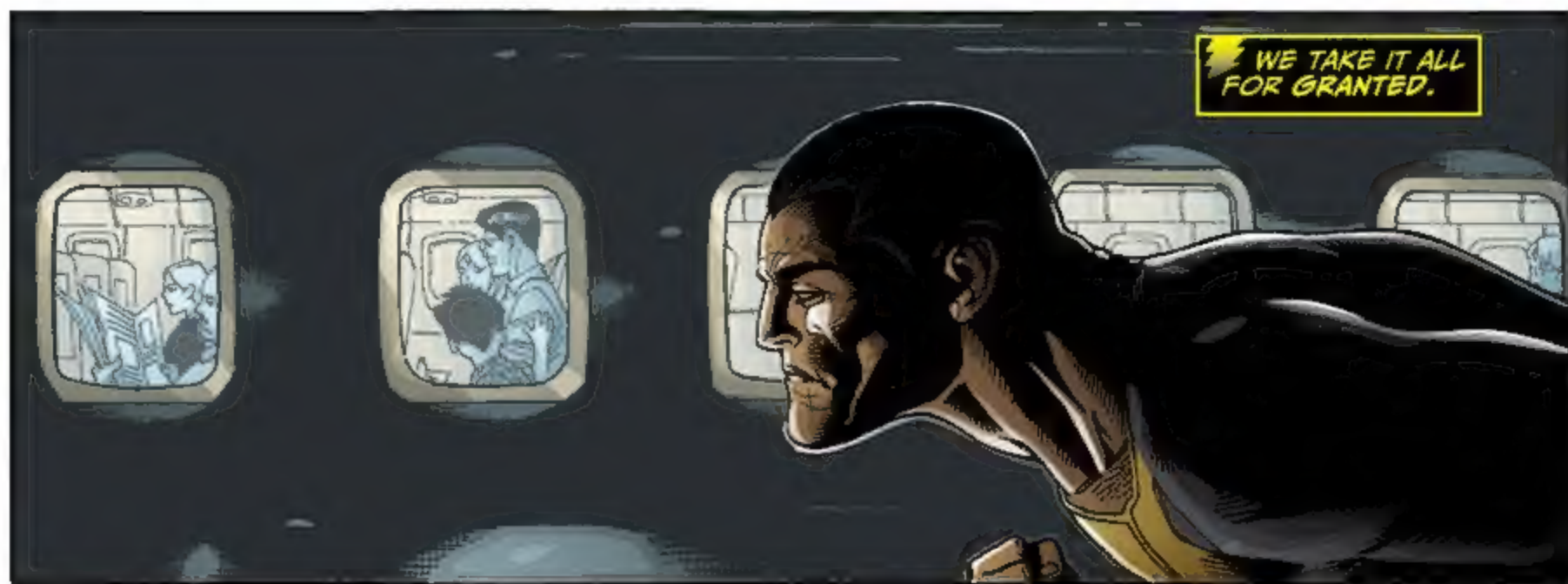
WHATEVER MAGIC
FAUST HAS APPLIED
SEEMS TO BE WORKING.

I CAN FEEL
THE PULL OF THE
AMULET LIKE A
MAGNET, DRAWING
ME --

FORTY THOUSAND
FEET HIGH AND STILL I
AM REMINDED OF ALL
THAT I HAVE LOST.



THE SIMPLE PLEASURE
OF SHARING A LOVED
ONE'S COMPANY--TALKING--
LAUGHING --

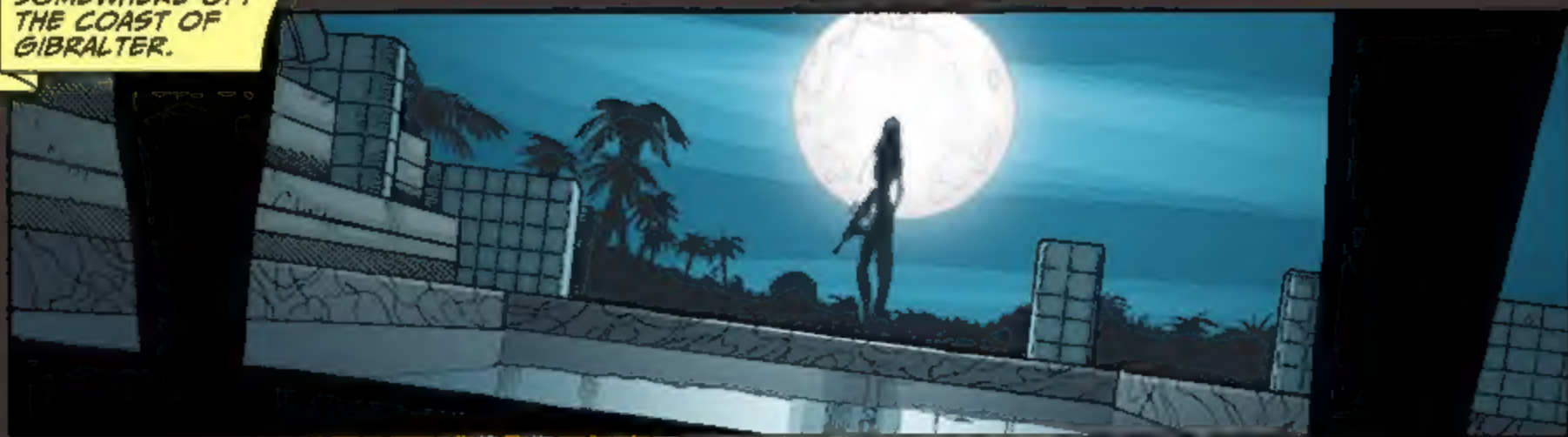


WE TAKE IT ALL
FOR GRANTED.



I HAVE TAKEN IT
ALL FOR GRANTED.

SOMEWHERE OFF
THE COAST OF
GIBRALTER.



**BRA
BRA
BRA**

MISS
TALIA. PARDON THE
INTERRUPTION.

YES. WHAT
IS IT?



WE JUST
RECEIVED WORD FROM
ONE OF OUR AUTOMATED
RELAY REMOTES IN PAKISTAN
THAT A PIT HAS BEEN
UTILIZED.

THANK
YOU.



KLAK

KEEP ME
UPDATED.

ST. ROCH, LOUISIANA.

MY FIRST
STOP.

I HOPE IT
IS SOMEHOW A
MISTAKE.

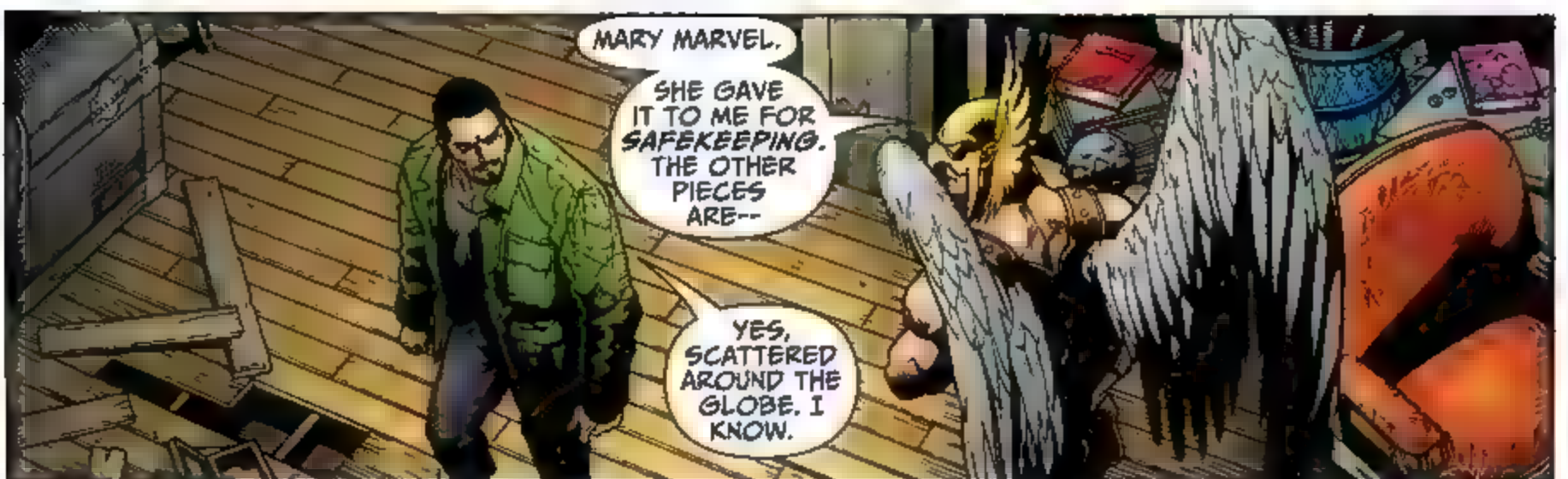
BUT I AM
DISSUADED OF
THAT NOTION
RATHER
QUICKLY...

...AND GO
WHERE I MUST
GO.

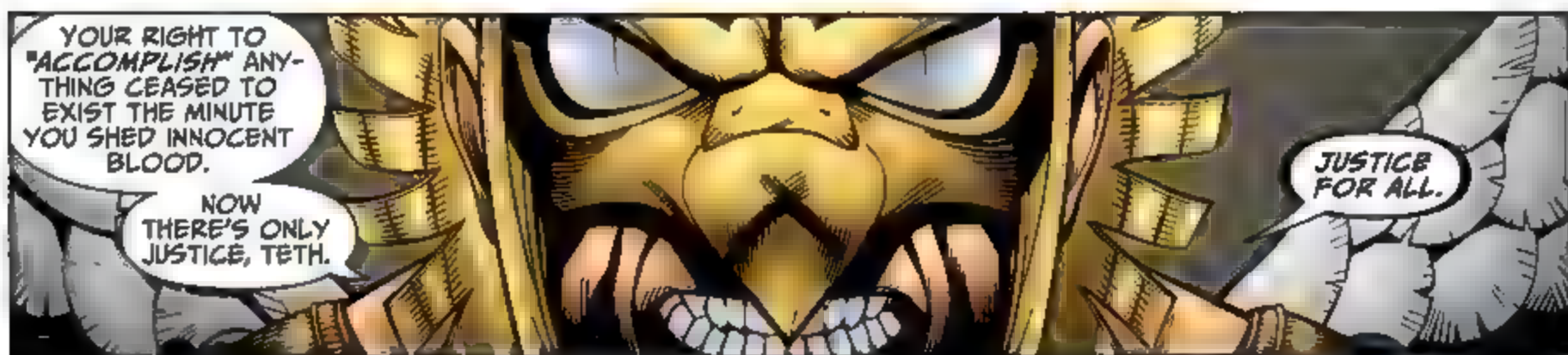
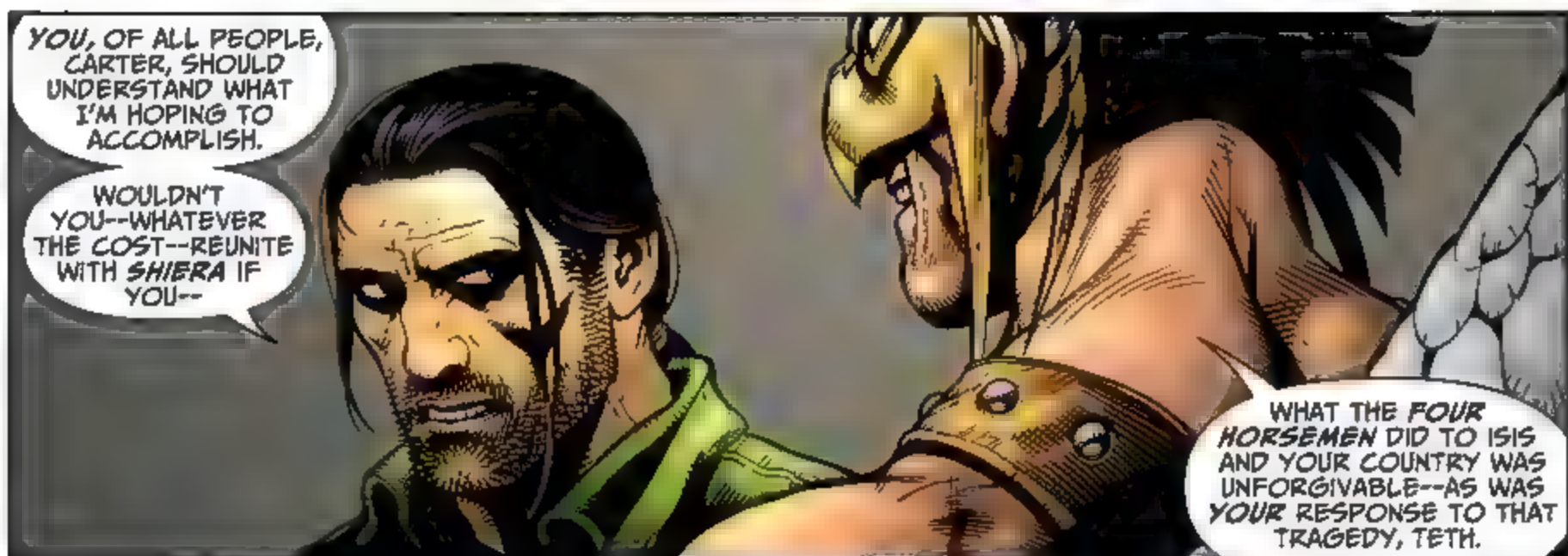
ISIS' AMULET
CALLS TO ME.

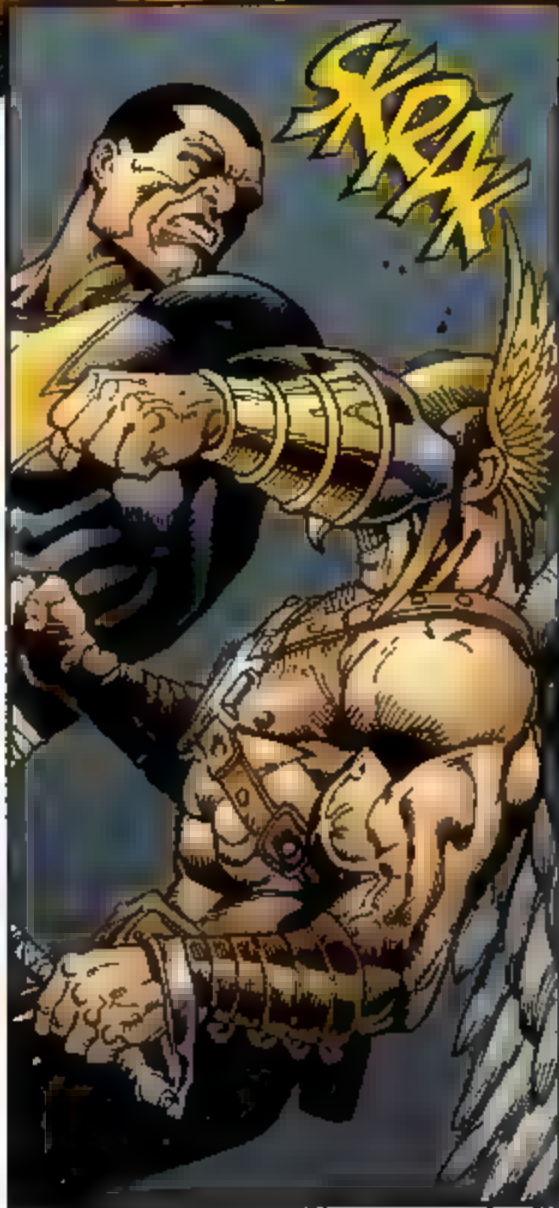
I FEEL AS IF I
AM A LEAF--FLOATING--
BORNE ON A BREEZE
THAT SHE CONTROLS --

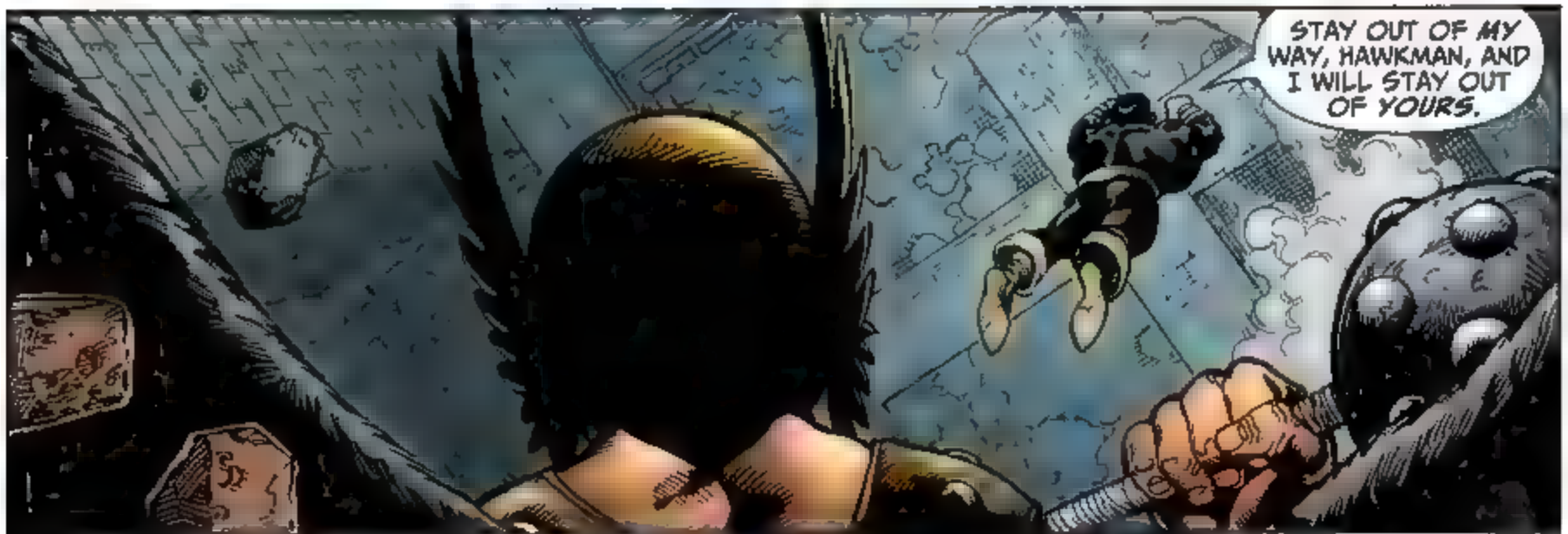
ALL I NEED
TO DO IS LET
HER GUIDE ME.

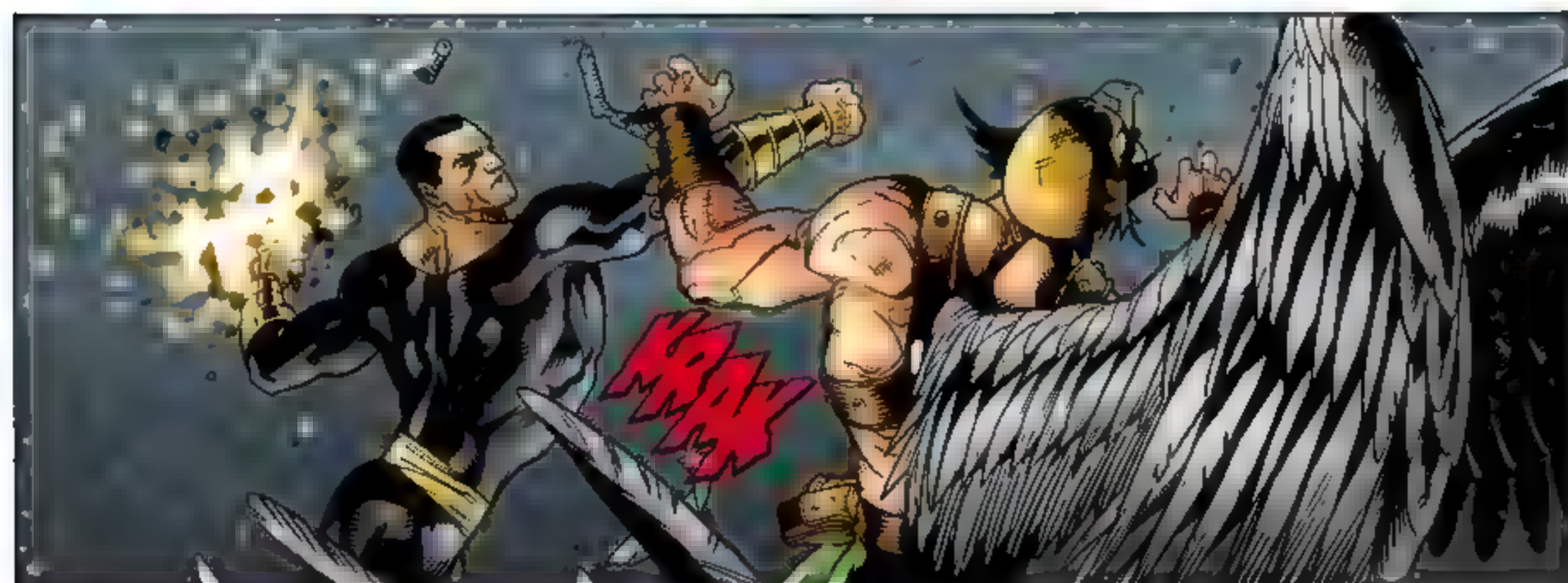
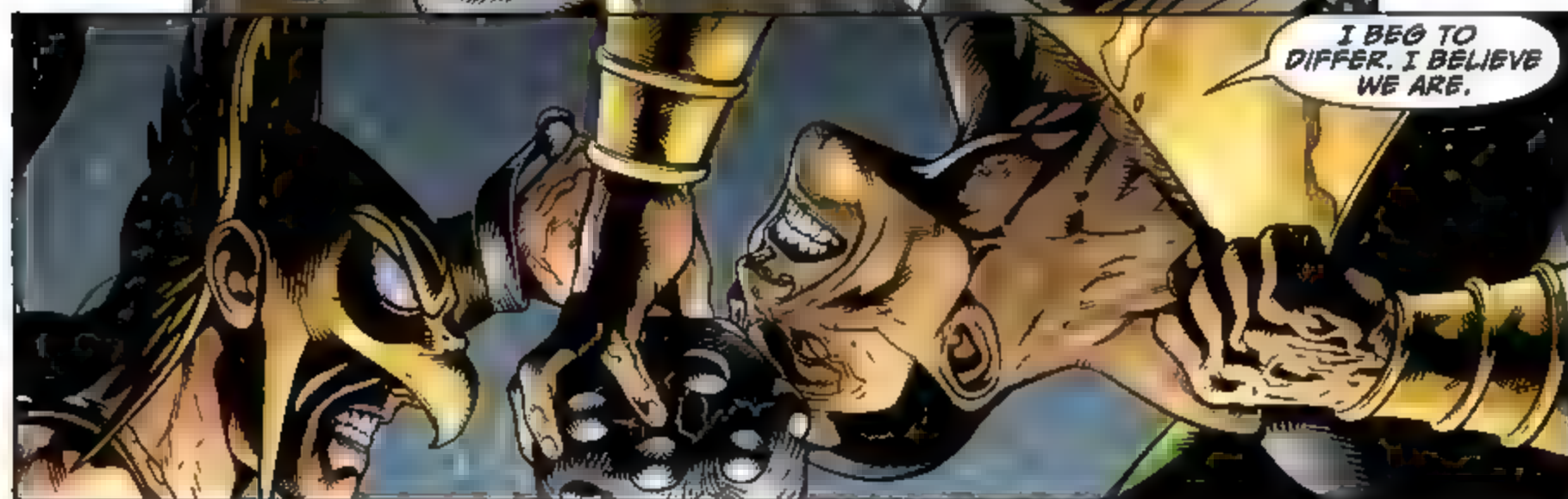
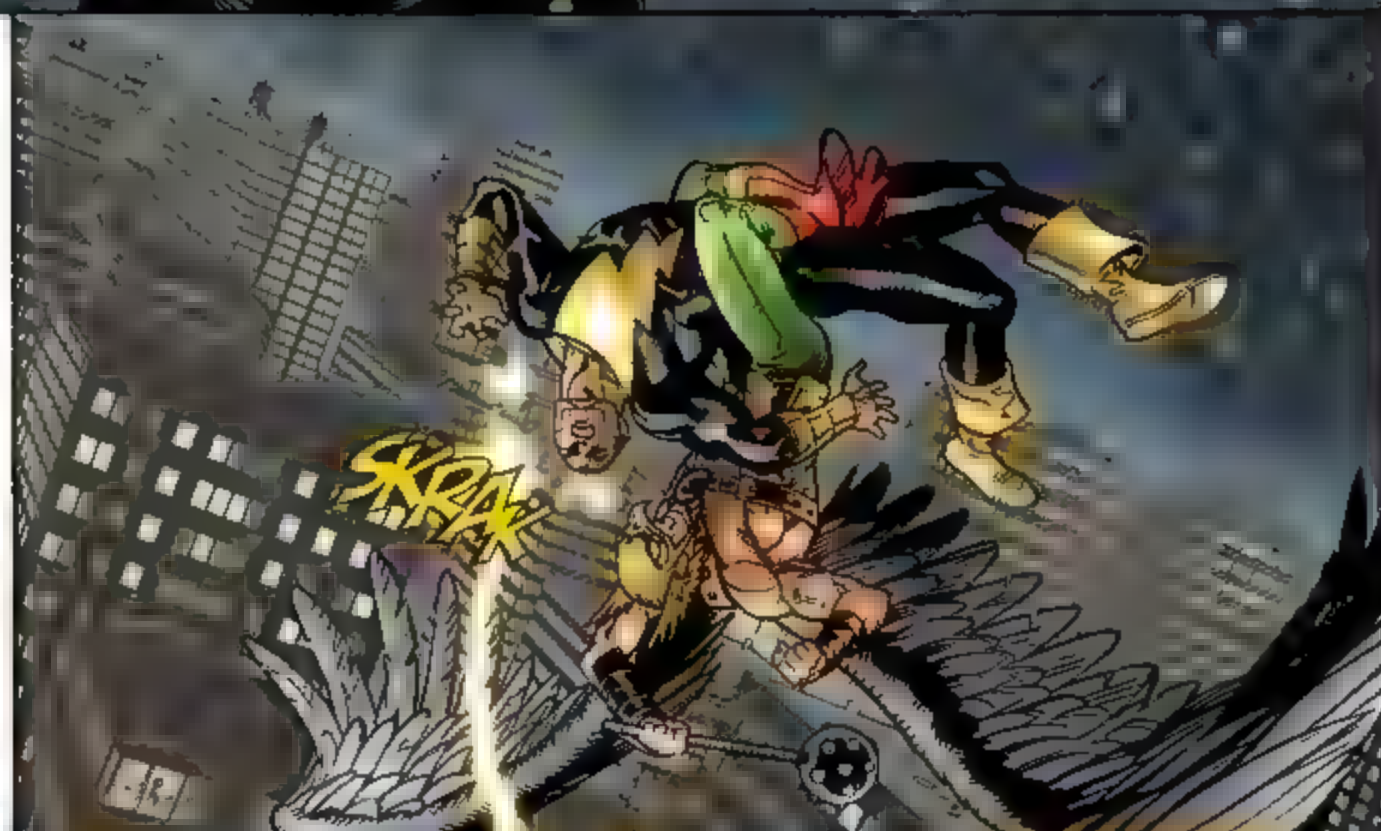
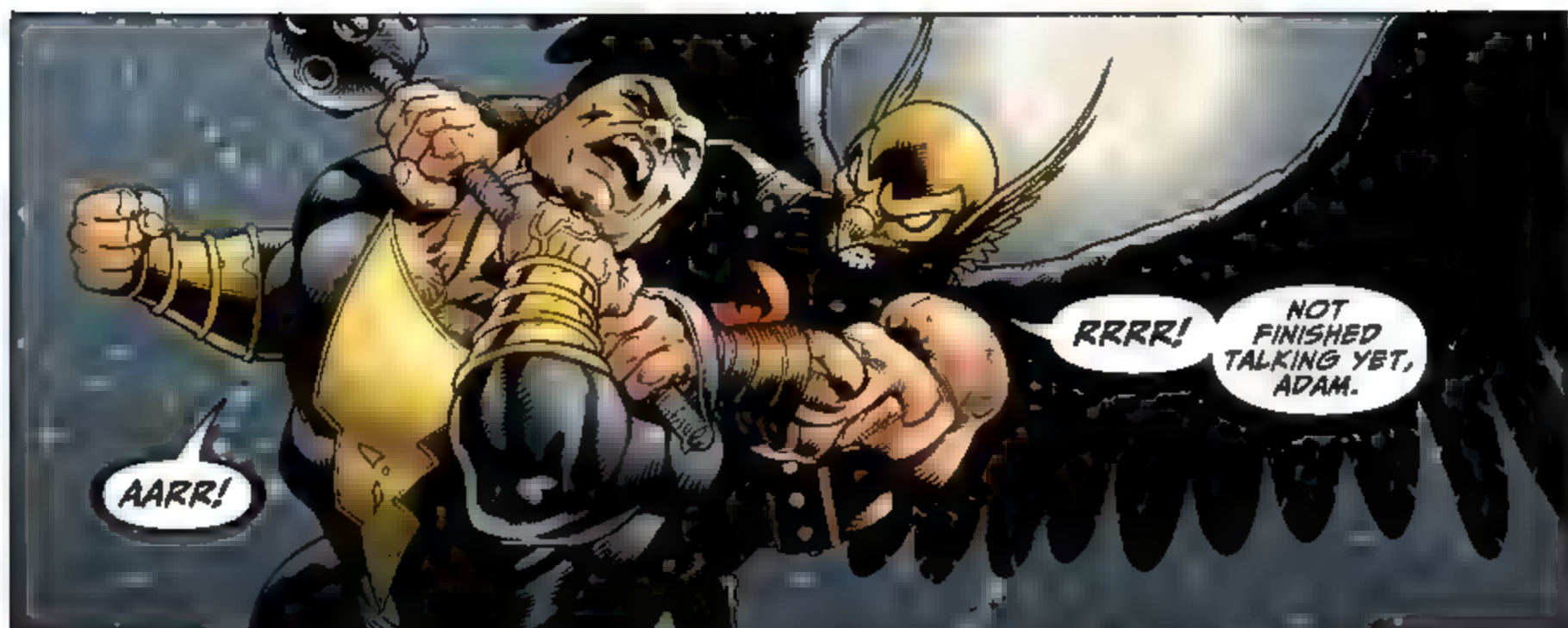


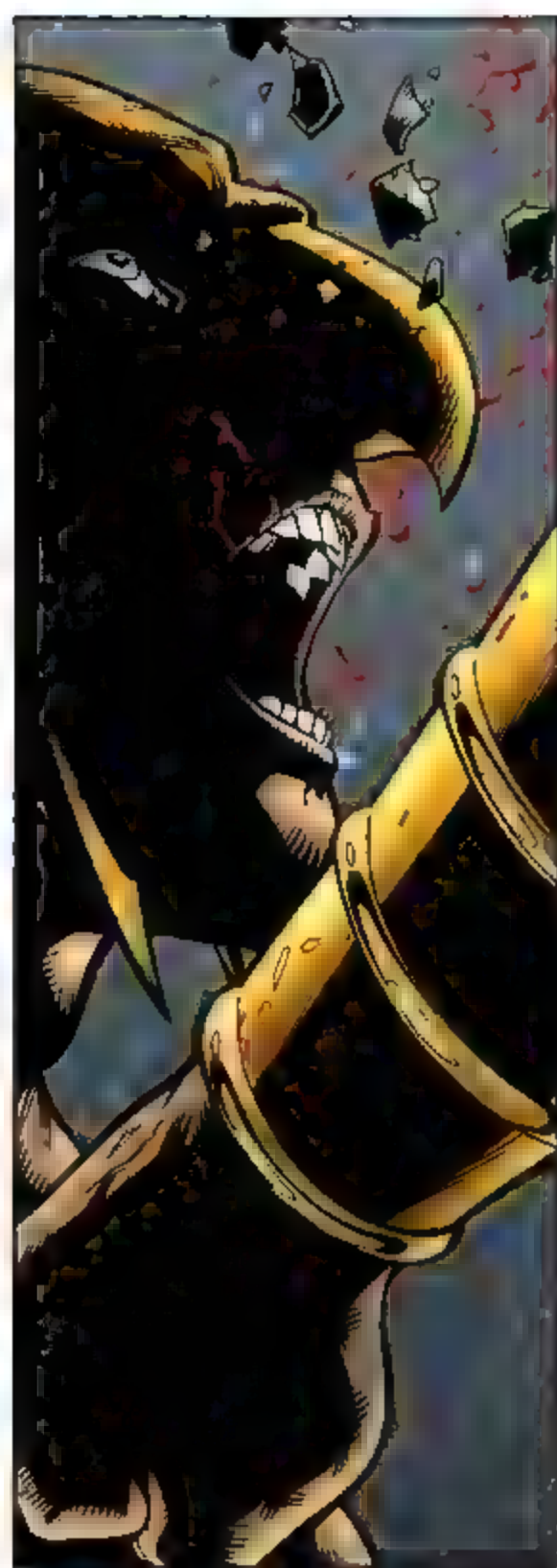




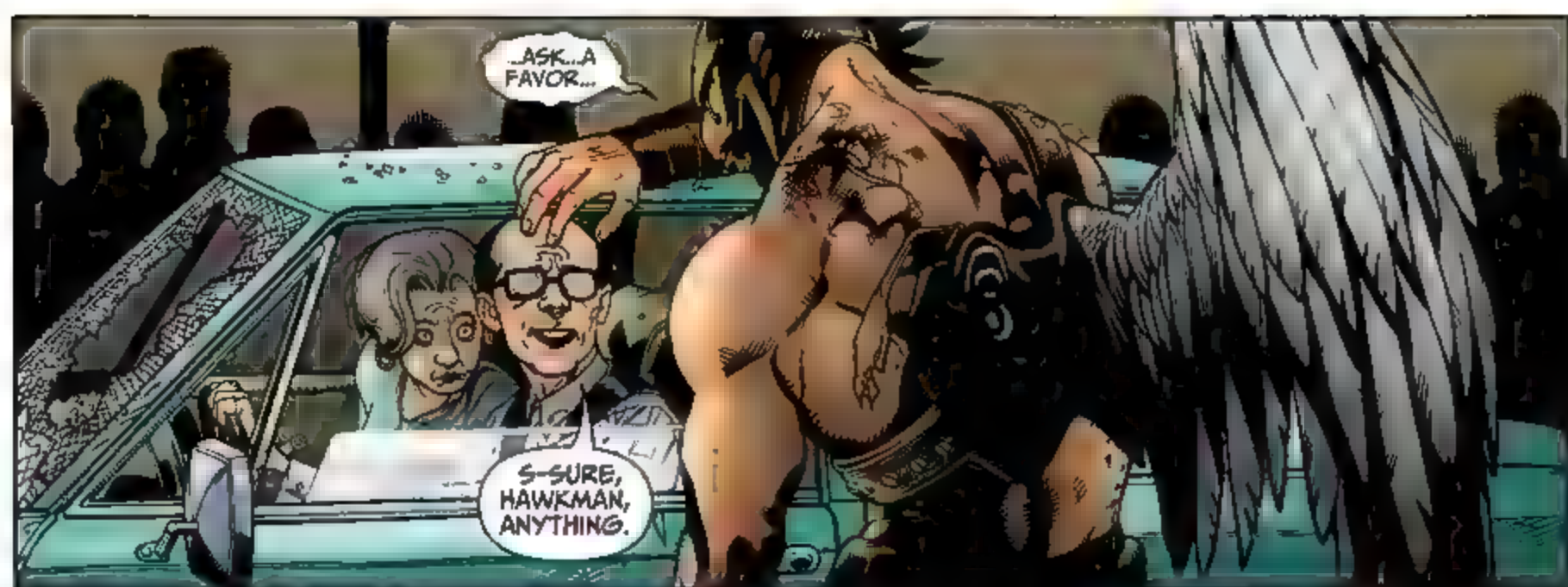
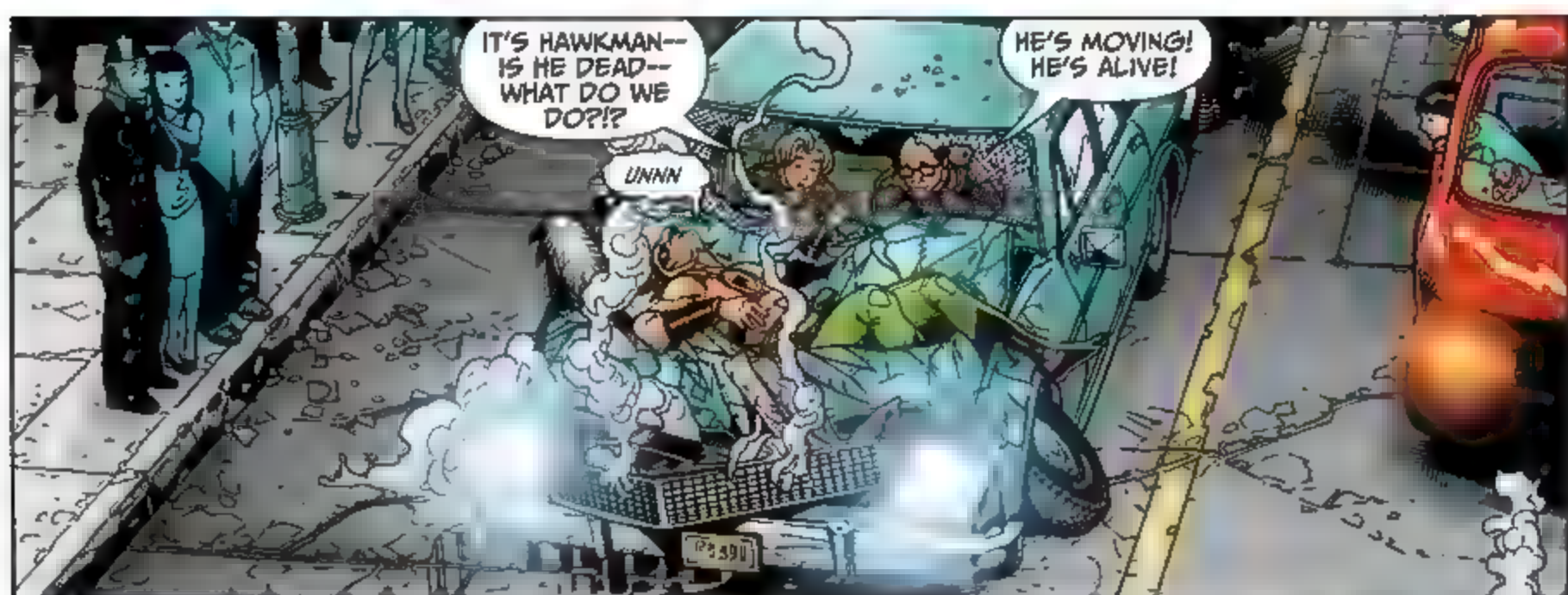












JUSTICE LEAGUE OF
AMERICA HEADQUARTERS.

YOU'VE ALL HAD
TIME TO DIGEST THE
BRIEF REGARDING THE INFO
GLEANED FROM THE
ASSASSIN WE CAPTURED
IN GOTHAM.

WHAT WE HAVE HERE IS
AN ANONYMOUS, WELL-FUNDED
GROUP THAT IS PAYING A
STEEP PRICE TO CAPTURE AND
KILL TETH-ADAM.

IT SEEMS THESE
ASSASSINS ARE SCATTERED
AROUND THE GLOBE AND
RECEIVING UPDATES AS TO
TETH-ADAM'S POSSIBLE
LOCATION FROM A
CENTRALIZED HUB.

AS WE HAVE
RECENTLY LEARNED
FROM HAWKMAN, IT SEEMS
THAT TETH HAS FOUND
SOME WAY TO TRANSFORM
BACK INTO BLACK ADAM,
AND THE ASSASSINS SEEM
TO BE PREPARED FOR
THAT CONTINGENCY.

I FOUND A
SINGLE BULLET ON
THE ASSASSIN'S PERSON
WITH TRACES OF A URANIUM
ISOTOPE, PRESUMABLY FOR
TRACKING ABILITIES IF THEY
MANAGE TO SOMEHOW
WOUND TETH-ADAM.

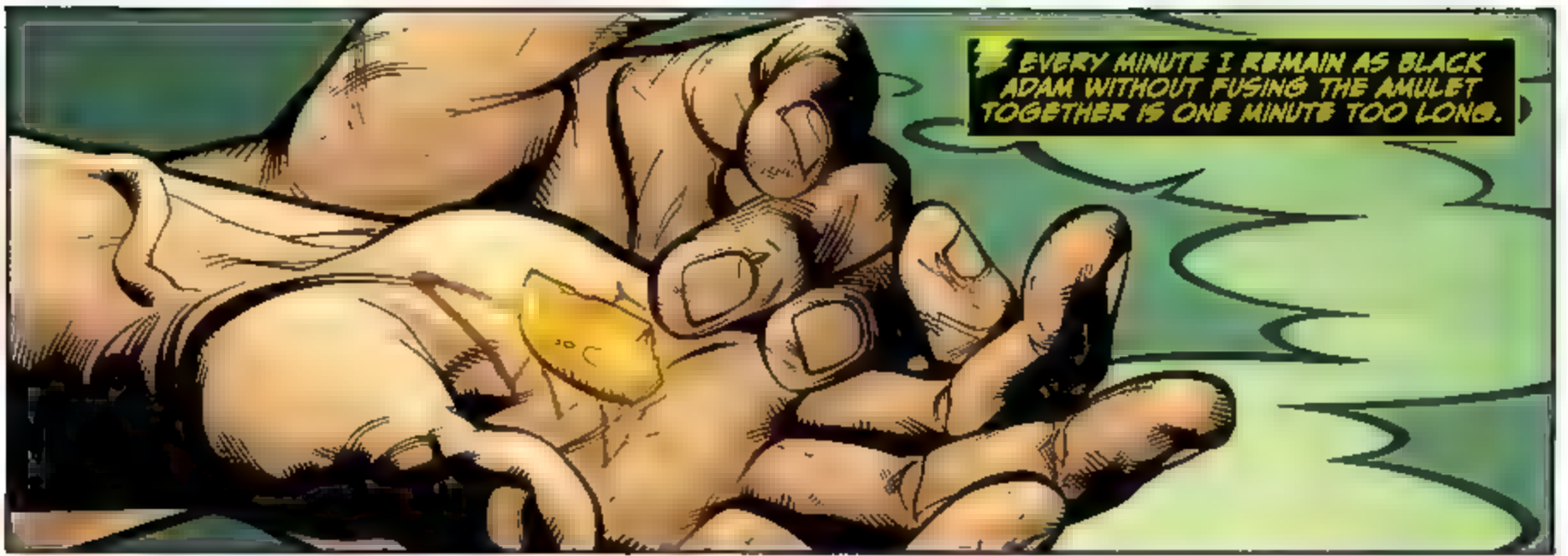
MISTER TERRIFIC,
ALONG WITH HAVING
SOME SUCCESS
TRACKING MARVEL'S
LIGHTNING BOLT,
WILL ANALYZE THE
BULLET WITH
ZATANNA AND ME.

SUPERMAN CONTACTED
MARVEL, WHO SAID THAT
TETH'S USED ANOTHER
METHOD TO TRANSFORM
BACK INTO BLACK ADAM.
SINCE HE WOULD'VE BEEN
ABLE TO TELL IF THE NEW
WORD HE PUT INTO PLACE
HAD BEEN UTILIZED
BY TETH, MARVEL IS
ADAMANT THAT'S NOT
THE CASE.

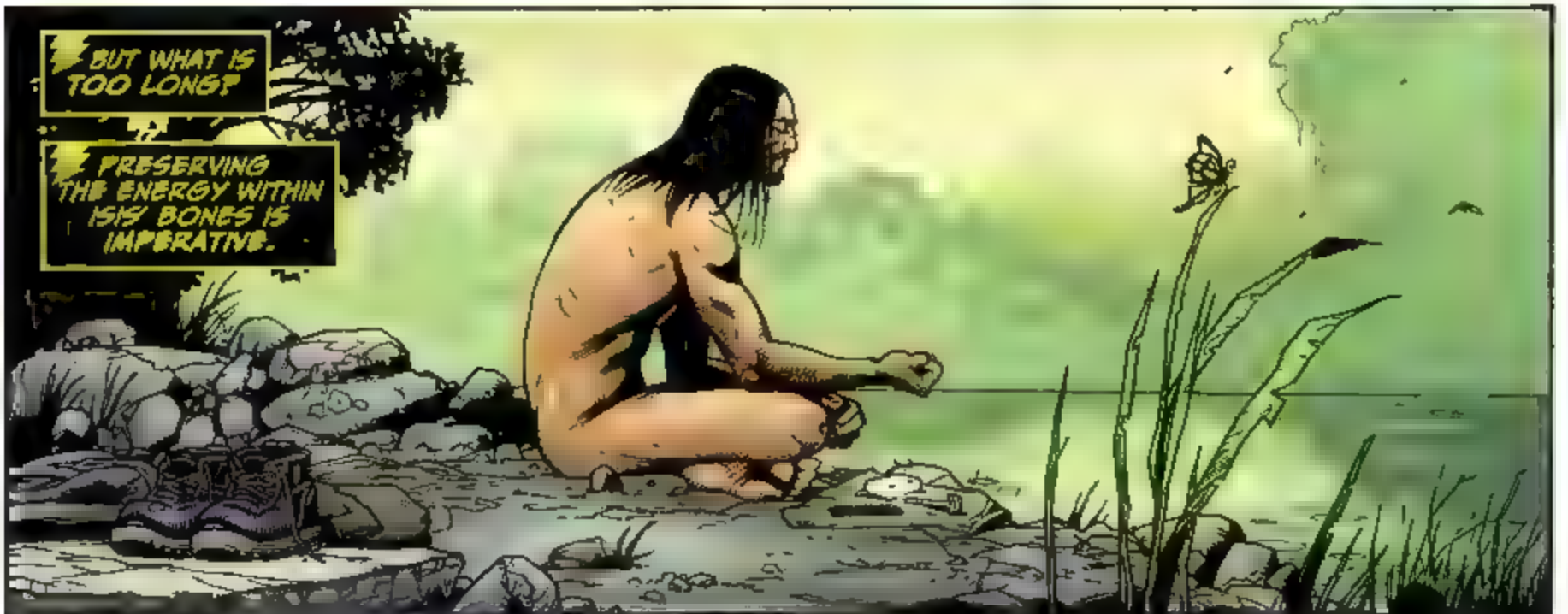
WHOEVER MAKES
THE KILLSHOT STANDS
TO GAIN A FORTUNE. THAT
IS NOT GOING TO HAPPEN.

WE'RE
BRINGING ADAM
IN OUR WAY.



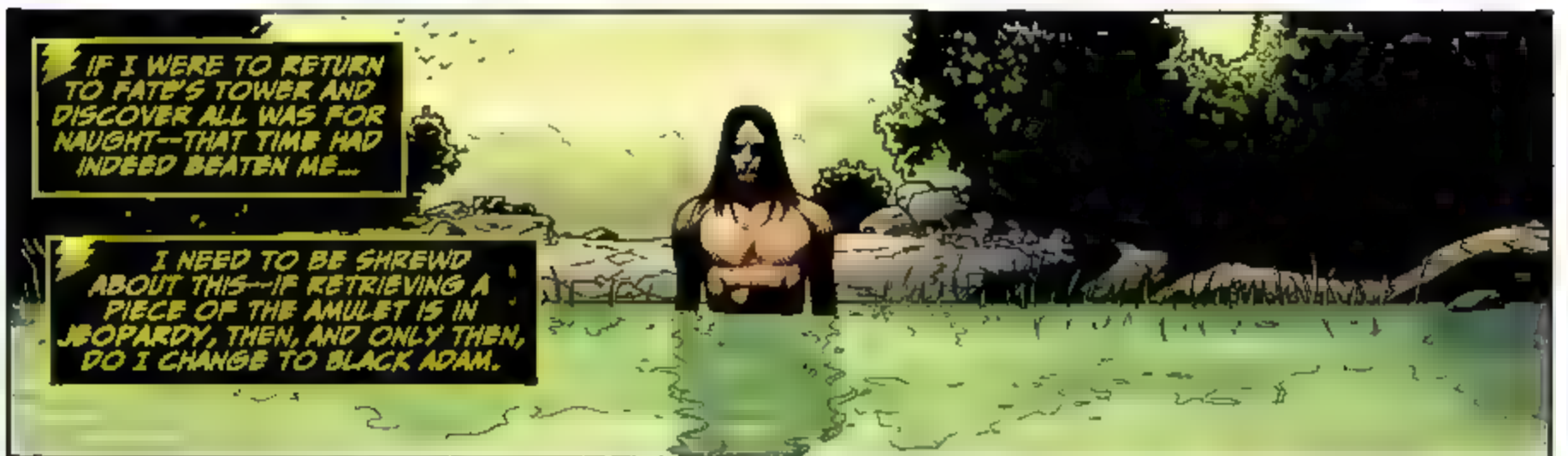


EVERY MINUTE I REMAIN AS BLACK ADAM WITHOUT FUSING THE AMULET TOGETHER IS ONE MINUTE TOO LONG.



BUT WHAT IS TOO LONG?

PRESERVING THE ENERGY WITHIN ISIS' BONES IS IMPERATIVE.



IF I WERE TO RETURN TO FATE'S TOWER AND DISCOVER ALL WAS FOR NAUGHT--THAT TIME HAD INDEED BEATEN ME...

I NEED TO BE SHREWD ABOUT THIS--IF RETRIEVING A PIECE OF THE AMULET IS IN JEOPARDY, THEN, AND ONLY THEN, DO I CHANGE TO BLACK ADAM.



IF I AM TO CONTINUE ON THIS JOURNEY AND SUCCEED, I MUST FIT IN PROPERLY.





**TO BE
CONTINUED**



